



CHEBACCO LAKE ASSOCIATION Newsletter *News from around the lake for friends of Chebacco Lake*

A Quarterly Publication of the Chebacco Lake Association

Late Fall Issue, 2004

From the CLA President's Chair

This was an eventful and busy year for the Chebacco Lake Association (CLA). The winter saw CLA Board members and general members Bill Mahoney and Trish Vaccari taking part in the "Dawn Patrol" to maintain the flow of water from Chebacco Lake into Alewife Creek. On a daily basis these hearty folks cleared the damming of the creek by the local beaver population. Freezing temperatures, ice, snow and rain did not stop the patrols or their adversaries. As result of these efforts and with the funds raised from the CLA membership, the CLA was able to keep the damage from spring flooding to a minimum.

Spring yard sale is a success

Spring brought us a yard sale to help the Water Level Relief Fund and replenish the CLA's operating funds. Thanks for your help! Past President Dave Lash was honored with a Community Service award for his efforts with the Dawn Patrol, and for his years of service to the Board of Directors of the CLA.

Over eighty attend CLA Picnic

The first event of the summer was our CLA picnic held at Centennial Grove. Games, good food, entertainment, and camaraderie were the order of the day. We counted over eighty people in attendance at two different times. Next year we hope to improve on all aspects of the Picnic and we will need you to help us.

Annual Boat Parade

The 4th of July Boat Parade was our biggest and best ever. Al Bovardi served as Grand Marshall, riding on Captain Jack Akin's Cabomba Queen - another prize winner for Jack! Also winning prizes were the Drs. Barbara & Jeff French, Margie and Bob Breen, Heather and Bill MacDonald, and Nancy Doyle and Rich Schreuer. The judges were Heidi Chisholm, Armins and Betty Ozolins, Sheri Lamkin, Dave Kerr and several house guests. Thank you all for making this one of the highlights of the summer.



The Cabomba Queen in the 4th of July Boat Parade

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Next Issue of the Newsletter

Please send submissions for the next newsletter by Feb. 1, 2005 to Betty Ozolins at bozolins@Comcast.net

Annual Meeting

The Chebacco Lake Association's Annual Meeting was held on October 12, 2004, at the A. P. Gardner Legion Post in Hamilton.

President Dave Kerr welcomed the membership and guests to the meeting. A review of the 2004 events and accomplishments was given.

Board Members Jack Akin, Heidi Chisholm and Joe Hansen will not be able to serve in the upcoming year. Joyce St. Hilaire, of Hamilton and Tim Colpoys of Essex have volunteered to join the CLA Board. Joyce and Tim were elected to the Board, and the other Board members were re-elected by voice acclamation.

Candidates for State Representative Brad Hill and Tim Purinton were introduced, and each reviewed their position and accomplishments for the attendees, followed by a question and answer period. We appreciate them taking the time to attend our meeting.

Betty Ozolins gave the treasurer's report, and a copy of that report is enclosed.

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CLA Officers and Board of Directors for 2004 – 2005

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From the CLA President's Chair

Annual Fall Meeting

Fall brought us our Annual meeting. Two new Board members joined us - Tim Colpoys from Essex, and Joyce St. Hilaire from Hamilton. We also met with the two candidates for State Representative, Brad Hill and Tim Purinton. Both men were informative and answered questions from the attendees about lake related issues. This year's attendance at the meeting was disappointing due in part to school functions and to a Red Sox game.

Being a caretaker of the lake

Why is all this important to you?

It's important because each of us has a role as a caretaker of the lake. The CLA is an active vital organization. We have begun work on a Lake Management Plan to help us preserve the quality of the Lake, and keep our living space healthy and beautiful for years to come. We are at present maintaining the beaver dam at the outlet again to ensure that the water level on the lake stays normal. We have begun testing the water for E-coli in the summer. We hold a cleanup of the shoreline every spring. But none of these efforts will gain us anything without the support of our friends and neighbors. We need your support as members, volunteers, Board members, and financial contributors. Without a strong membership enrollment, the CLA will have a difficult time getting the help from our municipal and State officials that we need for long-term plans. Without your help we will not be able hold our picnic and parade, or fund the work needed to maintain the Lake's water level.

What else can you do?

We ask you to begin by protecting your front yard. Avoid the use of chemical fertilizers on your yard. Allow a vegetative buffer to grow along the edge of the water to slow runoff of nutrients, use ecologically safe products in your laundry, and dishwashing so that septic systems do not leach nutrients into the lake. The CLA will be publishing the newsletter more consistently and with educational articles that will help answer the questions about how to keep the lake healthy and updating you on events that affect us all.

As President of the CLA, I hope that you will be more active in the organization. Volunteer, ask us questions, come to us with ideas, criticisms, suggestions, or just talk with a Board member about what we do. Each person living in this area is important to us and the Lake.

Thanks to All of You,

David Kerr, President Chebacco Lake Association

Thinking Ahead to Spring

Last year's CLA yard sale was a great success, bringing in \$701 to our treasury. We'd like to have another yard sale this spring, so if you're cleaning out during the winter, please consider donating your unwanted objects for our yard sale.

Hey Kids, Try This Quiz!

Did you know we now have beavers living on the lake? This wasn't always the case, they moved here a few years ago and are now building dams. Try and test your knowledge on these little guys.

1. Beavers build their lodges out of:

- a. clay
- b. wood and mud
- c. cattails and clay
- d. wood and glue

2. What happens first?

- a. A beaver builds a lodge.
- b. The beaver chews down trees.
- c. A pond forms behind the dam.
- d. A beaver finds a good spot in a stream.

3. When are beavers in the most danger?

- a. while they are swimming
- b. while they are on shore
- c. inside their lodge
- d. while climbing trees

4. Beaver's eyelids are:

- a. opaque
- b. transparent

5. Which two animals are rodents?

- a. a rat
- b. a beaver
- c. a cat
- d. a fox

6. Picture the shore near a beaver lodge. What do you see there?

- a. tree stumps
- b. a waterfall
- c. a sandy beach
- d. skyscraper



Answers are in the corner on the back of this page.

**Chebacco Lake Association
Annual Meeting
October 12, 2004
Treasurer's Report**

The Chebacco Lake Association has two accounts: our Operating Account and the Water Level Relief Fund Account.

Operating Account – October 22, 2003 Balance: \$2,764.44

Income:	Dues: \$1,730.00	
	Interest: 3.11	
	Yard Sale: <u>701.00</u>	
	Total Income:	\$2,434.11

Expenses:	Post Box, Mailing Labels, Checks: \$143.19	
	Postage for Mailings: \$330.31	
	Printing of Mailings: \$307.13	
	Colap Membership, Meetings: \$ 48.71	
	Yard Sale Mailing, Advertising: \$151.00	
	2003 Annual Meeting: \$132.86	
	June 27, 2004 Picnic: \$665.89	
	July 4 Boat Parade Prizes: \$ 70.74	
	Appreciation Gift: \$ 49.19	
	Water Testing: <u>\$162.00</u>	
	Total Expenses:	(\$2,061.02)

Operating Account October 12, 2004 Balance: \$3,137.53

Water Level Relief Fund – October 22, 2003 Balance: \$2,800.00

Income:	Contributions:	\$2,240.00
Expenses:	Permits, Damage Control: \$1,200.00	
	Postage, Mailing: <u>45.45</u>	
	Total Expenses:	(\$1,245.45)

Water Level Relief Fund October 12, 2004 Balance: \$3,794.55

3. b	1. b
2. d	4. b
5. a, b	
6. a	

Quiz Answers

Around the Lake

CLA Water Testing

This past spring, at one of our numerous family parties my sister-in-law asked again, while gazing into the sepia waters of our lake. "You really swim in this water? Is it safe for swimming?" "Of course, we are in it all summer long." I replied. But as for evidence that it was safe, I had only the fact we all appeared to be healthy and had been swimming every summer for over a decade.

We discussed this at the following CLA meeting and we all agreed to investigate what was being done about water testing for E-coli bacteria, the test that determines whether or not water is safe for swimming.

We found out that throughout the summer, the Essex Board of Health tests Chebacco Lake for E-coli bacteria. It is tested regularly at two sites in Essex, at Centennial Grove and at Camp Menorah. The Hamilton Board of Health does not test the quality of water on Chebacco Lake for E-coli bacteria. So this year the CLA funded and undertook an effort to test the water on the Hamilton side of the lake.

Biomarine of Gloucester was very helpful in educating us on the process. Samples were taken from 3 different coves, on June 16 and on August 2. We then took the samples to be analyzed at Biomarine and received results within days of dropping them off.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health currently accepts an E-coli count of <235/100ml in fresh water bathing areas. Our 3 Hamilton sites tested on June 16 with results of 6, 4, and 2 / 100ml and on August 2 results were 0,20 and 8/100ml. That is consistent with the testing in Essex. This is very good news for all swimmers and skiers out there. We hope to continue to test the quality of the water next year. When our CLA website is up and running we will post any testing results along with other interesting findings.

So this year when my sister-in-law pipes up, I will proudly hand her the results and give her a gentle shove into our beautiful lake.

Boat Ramp Sign

Last year the CLA installed a sign board at the public ramp. The sign was constructed by Joe Hanson and Jack Akin, and materials were donated by Hansbury Lumber. The sign welcomes visitors to the lake, provides a map showing shallow areas and rocks, lists a few boating tips and is available for other notices to post.

Sadly, during last winter, someone purposefully drove into the sign, snapping off both posts, extensively damaging the sign. Joe and Jack repaired the sign and replaced it. The sign has again been damaged by vandals, who smashed the Plexiglas.

This vandalism, along with littering or misuse of the area is, of course, discouraging. If you see any of this activity, please call the Hamilton Police Department.

Lawn & Garden Tips

We'd like to encourage everyone to use non-phosphorus lawn and garden fertilizers. Phosphorus can lead to a nutrient imbalance in ponds and lakes, which fuels the overgrowth of algae and aquatic plants, leading to depletion of oxygen, causing fish kills and a stagnant, murky water.

"Safe'n Simple" products are children, pet and environmentally friendly

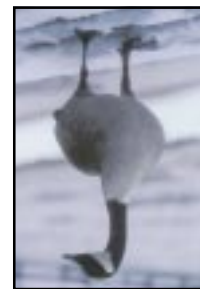
The Blue Seal Company now makes a line of organic lawn and garden products called "Safe'n Simple". The Safe'n Simple products are children, pet and environmentally friendly. The Safe'n Simple lawn food is a natural based fertilizer containing soybean, alfalfa, and fish meals, organic materials that enhance the soil, increase biological activity and provide needed nutrients for a thick healthy green lawn. Their weed control product is 100% organic and made from corn gluten. It is an environmentally safe, non-toxic, natural method for controlling germination of weeds (crabgrass, creeping bentgrass, smart weed, dandelion, etc.) in lawns.

The Safe'n Simple lawn and garden products can be purchased at the Essex County Co-Op in Topsfield and Danvers Agway in Danvers.

Safety Tips

State Law requires that all children under age 12 must wear a life jacket when on any boat.

Anyone aboard a kayak or canoe between September 15 and May 15 must wear a life jacket.



Wildlife Sightings

Chebacco Lake Association
P. O. Box 2344
South Hamilton, MA 01982

Chebacco Lake Association Membership Application

If you're not yet a CLA member, please join! We'd really appreciate your participation. If your membership has expired, please renew your membership now. Your membership expiration date is noted on your address label.

New **Renewal** **Choose one:** **Member \$25** **Patron \$50** **Sponsor \$75**

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Lake Address (if different) _____

Telephone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Please circle all that apply to your household: Lakeside resident / Property within 500' of lake /
Seasonal resident / Non-resident property owner / Sport or recreational user of lake area /
Recreational user of Chebacco Woods

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Please send completed form and dues to: CLA, P. O. Box 2344, So. Hamilton, MA 01982